

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07155 131155Z
ACTION EB-08

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD COPPER MEETING, APRIL 17-21, 1978

REF: (A) GENEVA 5384 (B) LONDON 5731

1. MICHEL CELLERIER, EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL CONCERNED WITH COPPER NEGOTIATIONS, INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT, LARGELY BECAUSE OF GERMAN OPPOSITION, LAST WEEK'S MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL'S RAW MATERIAL WORKING GROUP DID NOT ARRIVE AT ANY FINAL DECISIONS REGARDING A COMMUNITY POSITION FOR THE SUBJECT MEETING ON COPPER IN GENEVA. AN EC COORDINATING SESSION SCHEDULED FOR EARLY APRIL 17 IN GENEVA WILL TRY AGAIN TO REACH AGREEMENT IN LIGHT OF THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER INTERESTED STATES AND THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT.

2. CELLERIER SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL COMMISSION COMMUNICATION OF NOVEMBER 22, 1977 RECOMMENDING
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07155 131155Z

A COMMUNITY POSITION FOR A COPPER ICA (POUCHED EUR/RPE AND EB/ORF), THE COMMISSION PREPARED SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER COPPER STANDING BODY WHICH WAS DISCUSSED AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING. IN THIS PAPER, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THE NEW COPPER BODY SHOULD BE JURIDICALLY TIED TO UNCTAD, BUT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT

OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND GENERALLY "INTELLECTUALLY INDEPENDENT". HENCE, IT SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN SMALL INDEPENDENTLY RECRUITED STAFF, AND A DIRECTOR OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHO WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OR TO THE UNCTAD COMMODITIES COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN TO THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT. WHILE MUCH OF ITS BUDGET WOULD COME FROM A LINE ITEM IN THE UNCTAD BUDGET, THIS COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY INTERESTED STATES WHO COULD ALSO PROVIDE SERVICES OF EXPERTS TO CONDUCT SPECIAL STUDIES. THE BODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN WORK PROGRAM INDEPENDENT OF UNCTAD OR OTHER EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS.

3. REGARDING THE BODY'S MANDATE, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED, ACCORDING TO CELLERIER, THAT IN ADDITION TO EXAMINING A POSSIBLE ICA ON COPPER, THE BODY SHOULD FOLLOW THE COPPER MARKET CLOSELY AND DETERMINE AVAILABLE OPTIONS TO ASSURE STABILITY OF THE WORLD COPPER MARKET IN THE SHORT RUN WITH ADEQUATE RETURNS TO PRODUCERS. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED THAT THIS BODY SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND GO INTO OPERATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER, 1978.

4. CELLERIER SAID THAT AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING, THE UK AND BELGIUM COMPLETELY SUPPORTED THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS, WHILE GERMANY WAS TOTALLY OPPOSED. OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 07155 131155Z

MEMBER STATES HAD SOME RESERVATIONS, BUT ALL EXCEPT GERMANY AGREED THAT THE BODY SHOULD BE LEGALLY LINKED TO UNCTAD. ACCORDING TO CELLERIER, THE BRITISH POINTED OUT THAT THE ONLY APPARENT ALTERNATIVE TO UNCTAD WOULD BE TO NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT CREATING SUCH A BODY OR GOING THROUGH PROCEDURES IN THE UNITED NATIONS (PRESUMABLY UP TO THE UNGA ITSELF) TO BRING IT DIRECTLY UNDER UN AUSPICES. THE PROCEDURES FOR EITHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE QUITE DIFFICULT AND COULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL 1979, WHEREAS MOST MEMBER STATES AGREE ON THE URGENCY OF ESTABLISHING THE BODY.

5. CELLERIER WILL HEAD THE COMMISSION DELEGATION TO NEXT WEEK'S MEETING AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SILAIN BERTOLETTI. HINTON

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